

SP/1

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Atlanta

SUBJECT: DONALD L. WEST, WAS
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
(Bufile 100-20396)

DATE: August 24, 1948

Loyalty

Mr. DUDLEY W. REYNOLDS, 126 Barksdale Drive, NE, Atlanta, Georgia, advised that while waiting for a bus in June of 1946 he had conversed with a neighbor of his, KENDALL WEISIGER, of 206 17th Street, NE, Atlanta. REYNOLDS stated that WEISIGER told him that he had made a speech at the Lula High School, Lula, Georgia, at the request of DONALD LEE WEST when he had been principal of the high school and that because of his, WEISIGER's, speech the patrons of the Lula High School had fired WEST. REYNOLDS stated that WEISIGER told him he had arranged and obtained a position at Oglethorpe University for DONALD LEE WEST as a professor.

REYNOLDS advised he was not well acquainted with WEISIGER but that he understood WEISIGER had taken a tour through Texas and had made quite a few speeches at different high schools and that he was retired on a pension from the Southern Bell Telephone Company. REYNOLDS further advised that WEISIGER, as he recalled, had been very much interested in labor while employed by the Southern Bell Telephone Company and it was his understanding he had been a "trouble maker".

G. I. R. - 2

Mr. REYNOLDS stated that he was bringing this information to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation because KENDALL WEISIGER has been appointed a member of a board to review loyalty cases in the Atlanta area.

Mr. ERNEST W. HAYES, Civil Service Commission, Atlanta, advised that Mr. KENDALL WEISIGER of 206 17th Street, NE, was one of the four members of the Loyalty Board for this area.

The above is furnished for your information.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/15/82 BY SP1 GSK/RSK

JTS:mos
100-559

RECORDED - 116

INDEXED - 116

100-20396-78
F B I

12 AUG 26 1948

*Not
Not front
Employee - No
action against*

1 SEP 3 - 1948

*No action on
Internal Security*

FBI

Walt

Bourgeois

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA

FILE NO.

100-1015

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|---|------------|
| REPORT MADE AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE | DATE WHEN MADE 9/1/48 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/26,27/48 | REPORT MADE BY V. WALSER PROSPERE | DND |
| TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, Was. | | | CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C | |

WSP
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

DONALD LEE WEST attended banquet at Hermitage Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee on April 18, 1948. Meeting sponsored by Dixie Conference of Railroad Train Men. [redacted] recalls WEST having been present but knows of no further activity on his part in connection with the meeting. Informant stated that WEST attended another meeting at the time he was in Nashville although unable to furnish any details concerning it.

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- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Bureau File No. 100-20396.

Report of SA JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR. dated 8/9/48 at Atlanta.

DETAILS:

[redacted] advised that DONALD LEE WEST from Atlanta, Georgia attended a banquet of labor leaders which was addressed by A. F. WHITNEY of the Railroad Brotherhoods which was held in the Hermitage Hotel during the spring of 1948. Informant stated that this banquet was attended by representatives of the Railroad Brotherhoods, CIO, A.F. of L., independent unions and all manner of labor representatives. He stated that he attended this banquet, and that he recalls subject having been present but does not recall his having taken an active part in the proceedings. He stated that there were a number of meetings held during the course of the gathering of labor representatives and he vaguely remembers that WEST attended one of these meetings. However, he stated that he did not recall the name of the group or the nature of its business. He stated that he had known WEST for quite sometime and considered him to be very radical. Informant

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 DATE 3/17/82 BY SP-1084/BY

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| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>S. Hostetter</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES | | |
| COPIES DESTROYED <i>4/22/57 #110</i> | 100-20396-79 | | RECORDED - 109 |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - Atlanta 2 - Memphis | 6 SEP 8 1948 COPY IN FILE | | |

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ME 100-1015

stated he did not recall anyone else who attended the meeting that WEST went to, nor did he recall anyone else at the banquet who might be able to throw further light on the subject.

Temporary Confidential Informant T-1 advised that on April 18, 19 and 20 the Dixie Conference of Railroad Train Men was held at the Hermitage Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee, and that a number of prominent labor leaders addressed the gathering, including A. F. WHITNEY and JAMES CAREY, CIO leader. Informant stated he did not recall subject's name and stated that he did not stay at the Hermitage Hotel during that period. It is noted that referenced report reflects that subject was in Nashville for only one day. b7D

[redacted] further stated that he was not familiar with the organization Farmers Union and had never heard of it in connection with labor activities in the Nashville area.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

For purposes of this report, Temporary Confidential Informant T-1 is identified as follows:

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He is being given a temporary confidential informant symbol by virtue of the information furnished by him.

Bragg says the camp program is designed to provide the youths a sense of sharing in useful enterprise and an experience in group living. He said the program evolved from the war, when youth-work bands were organized to help harvest crops.

West was reluctant to discuss the camp, saying it was none of The Constitution's business. When asked whether or not he was a Communist, West refused to answer.

Bragg, however, said the camp was operated strictly on a non-sectarian, non-political, non-racial basis and a man's politics did not enter into one's relationship with the camp.

West said the camp was connected in no way with the People's Institute of Applied Religion, an organization, with headquarters in Birmingham, which U. S. Atty. Gen. Tom Clark has called subversive.

West says he is participating in religious activities of the community and has made talks in various churches. He said he is a minister of the gospel, as well as an educator. He said he formerly was a Baptist, but now is a Congregationalist.

The two boys enrolled in the camp refused to give their names for publication and also refused to be photographed. They said their refusal was based on newspaper criticism of West.

The girls, all of high school age, are Nona Baird, of New York City; Marcia Haseltine, Belmont, Mass.; Jean Roethlisberger, Cambridge, Mass.; Helen Devine, Duluth, Minn.; Renee Neu, of New York City, and Ann West, daughter of Don West.

Maurice Eiler, of Lowell, Mass., is Director of the camp. John Teger, Director of all Unitarian work camps, is also helping to organize the Georgia camp.

People of the community in which the camp located say they don't know much about it other than they have heard West intended to bring in underprivileged children. C. E. Hall, a farmer, exhibited a copy of West poems, "Clods of Southern Earth," which he said West gave him to read.

Mr. Tolson.....
 Mr. Clegg.....
 Mr. Glavin.....
 Mr. Ladd.....

1879

Don West Helps Organize Youth Work Camp

By BILL BORING.

Don West, Georgia educator and poet (a line of one of his poems reprinted in The Daily Worker, official mouthpiece of the Communist Party in this country, states, "I am a Communist . . ."), is helping to organize a work camp for teen-aged youngsters in a rural

The camp, now populated by six girls and two boys from Eastern and Midwestern cities, is situated on a 200-acre farm owned by West. It is sponsored by the Unitarian Service Committee of the Unitarian Church as one of nine such camps in the U. S., according to Raymond B. Bragg, Executive Director. Bragg was at the Georgia camp yesterday on an inspection tour.

West says that while the camp currently is being operated as a work camp for youths, he hopes to develop it eventually into a camp for underprivileged Georgia children.

Present guests of the camp have been there since July 1 and will remain two weeks longer, according to the directors. They are all high school youngsters who say they are finding the pursuit of social studies in the South exciting.

A typical day at the camp begins with breakfast at 7, followed by a two-hour work period, usually of remodeling into a dormitory one of the old barns on the place. Another two-hour work period comes in the afternoon. Evenings usually are taken up with discussions of social and economic problems of the South (such as sharecropping, the Negro problem, the Ku Klu Klan) and recreation.

The youngsters are taken on tours of the rural countryside, where they say they gain firsthand knowledge of conditions in the South. One tour also took them, as observers, to a recent cross-burning ceremony staged on Stone Mountain by the Ku Klu Klan. They attended church services in their neighborhood.



'Constitution Staff Photo'

WEST OPENS WORK CAMP—Don West is seen here with enrollees of a work camp which he is helping establish near Douglasville. West is shown in center, in photograph. The other man in the photograph is Camp Director Maurice Filler, of Low. Girls are Nona Baird, Mary Caseltine, Ann West, Jean Koethlisberger, Helen

Bureau

RE: DONALD L. WEST, was;
 (INTERNAL SECURITY - C)

INDEXED - 76

EX-84

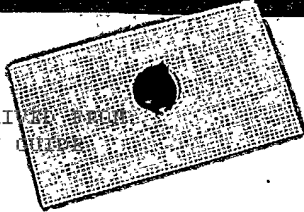
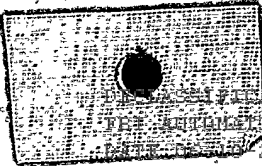
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DATE 3/15/82 BY SP-1 GSP/PSK

71 SEP 22 1948

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CLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
 EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652, DECLASSIFICATION
 AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
 2010

Form No. 3

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA**

SECRET

FILE No. **100-559 aej**

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--|
| REPORT MADE AT: ATLANTA | DATE WHEN MADE: 10-27-48 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 10-12, 13, 14, 15-1948 | REPORT MADE BY: PAUL F. TIERNEY |
| TITLE: DONALD LEE WEST, was. Don Lee West, Don West, Reverend Donald L. West, [Jim Webb, Jim Weaver | | | CHARACTER OF CASE: INTERNAL SECURITY - C |

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY REPORT

DONALD LEE WEST

SYNOPSIS:

Daily Worker reflects the following: subject wrote poem "Listen, I Am A Communist" in 1934; fled Atlanta, Georgia, 1934 when sought on charges of inciting to insurrection; spoke at Boston, Mass. 1934 under auspices International Labor Defense demanding release of ERNST THAEIMANN; jailed 1935 Pineville, Kentucky for activities in connection with miners strike; subject on National Committee of C.P. in 1936 drive for election of BROWDER and FORD when subject was in Louisville, Kentucky; also listed as State Organizer of Workers Alliance of Kentucky and member of National Unemployed Committee for BROWDER and FORD in 1936; subject was present at reception to MAUDE WHITE, only negro member Central Committee of C.P. at New York City 6-21-37; subject listed as Georgia born organizer of C.P. in Kentucky at the time. Confidential informant advises subject became a Communist in 1934 and was a member in 1945 and 1948. Subject continues to be a contact of HOMER BATES CHASE, C. P. District Organizer for Georgia. Other contacts set out. Subject presently residing on farm, Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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 DATE 3/30/81 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

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 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT - P -
 WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSK
 Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2.2

Date of Review 5/5/92
2781/CJK 11-30-90 3/3/82
pp. 1, 697 only

REFERENCE

Bureau file #100-10355.
 Report of SA JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR. dated at Atlanta 6-12-47.
 Report of SA JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR. dated at Atlanta 8-9-48.

DETAILS

RESIDENT ADDRESSES AND OCCUPATION

Confidential informant T-7 advises subject presently residing on the Old Eph Butler Farm, Route 4, nine miles outside of Douglasville, Georgia. Confidential informant T-8 advised on

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

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|--|-------------------------|--|---|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | 100-20395-80 | RECORDED AND INDEXED: |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 5 - Bureau 3 - Atlanta | | BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | CHECKED OFF: RECORDED - 138 INDEXED - 138 |
| 17 COPIES DESTROYED 11/16/99 | | ROUTED TO: | FILE |

SECRET

AT 100-559

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9-3-48 that the Unitarian Work Camp which was run by the subject at above farm is closed and that subject is presently clearing land on above farm, evidently for farming.

CITIZENSHIP STATUS

Subject was born Cartecay, Georgia, June 6, 1908, son of OLIVER WEST and LILEY MULKEY. Subject's parents natives of Gilmer County, Georgia. Subject's grandfather KIM MULKEY was also a native of Gilmer County, Georgia.

EVIDENCE OF MEMBERSHIP IN COMMUNIST PARTY

The following poem entitled "Listen, I Am A Communist" under the byline of DON WEST appeared on Page 5 of the Daily Worker under date of March 13, 1934. It is noted that the masthead of instant Daily Worker is set up as follows:

DAILY WORKER

CENTRAL ORGAN, COMMUNIST PARTY U.S.A. (SECTION OF COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL)

LISTEN, I AM
A COMMUNIST
By DON WEST

I am a Communist
A Red
A Bolsheviki!
Do you, toilers of the South,
Know me,
Do you understand?
Do you believe the lies
Capitalists say
And print about me?
You farmers,
Share croppers,
Renters,
Factory Workers,
Negroes, poor whites,
Do you understand me,
Do you see
That I am you,
That I, the Communist,
Am you--?

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I am Don West, too,
The poet,
The working man.
But the poet
Is a cry for justice
The Communist is the tempered soul
Of a hundred million toilers
Marching to victory
A new world
A working man's world! . . .

I am the son
Of my grandfather.
His blood pounds thru
My veins, and cries out
For justice!
I am the poet
Who sings to the south
And she responds
With sobs of misery! . . .

I'm not foreign
No body
With calloused hands
Is foreign to us--
I'm Don West
Raised on a Georgia farm--
The son of my mother
And a Communist . . .

That means
I want bread
And homes
And clothes
And love
And beauty
For all your hollow-eyed babies
I want songs on the lips
And joy in the eyes
Of your anxious mothers
Who scrub
And hoe
And weave in a factory.

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You toil-hardened men and women,
Whose backs are twisted
Making profits for capitalists,
I am building a new world--
Yet not I,
But you--
WE!
For we are the Communists
We are the toilers. . . .

Did you ever hear of the
SOVIET UNION,
Where our comrades
Have laid their burdens down
Have taken what was always theirs
And dismissed the loafers,
The Capitalists?
They are calling us
To rise
To organize
To be free. . . .

And do you hear me?
I'm speaking,
I, the poet,
Don West
Communist,
Bolshevik,
Red. . . .
Working man
Southern toiler
You will hear me
And you'll believe,
Because I am you,
You are me,
And
We--
Are power!

(Kennesaw, Ga.)

The Daily Worker, with masthead as described above for Monday June 11, 1934, contains a news item which reflects that subject WEST was in New York "following his escape from the Atlanta police and fascist gangs which have terrorized the negro and white workers neighborhoods in a frantic and bestial campaign

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to stop the wild fire spread of revolutionary struggle in the South." The article also reflects that WEST left Atlanta on Saturday June 2, 1934 after the Police and the "Men of Justice"--a group similar to the White Legion in Birmingham -- had spread word throughout the city that they were out to "get WEST, dead or alive." The article also stated "DON WEST, a Communist, was being sought on a charge of 'inciting to insurrection'". The article also stated that WEST told his story of a flight from Georgia at the offices of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners at 156 5th Avenue, New York City, on June 10, 1934.

The Daily Worker, with same masthead as previously referred to, under date of Tuesday June 19, 1934, stated that DON WEST, C. P. Organizer in the South, was to speak at an ANGELO SHERNDON protest mass meeting on Wednesday night at the Dudley Opera House in Boston, Massachusetts; that the meeting was under the auspices of the International Labor Defense and that the meeting would demand the release of ERNST THAEIMANN.

The Daily Worker, with identical masthead previously referred to, under date of Friday November 1, 1935, contained a news item entitled, "A Communist Organizer in Court." News article under date line Pineville, Kentucky October 28, is quoted as follows: "NORMAN LINK and D. I. WEST, members of the United Mine Workers of America were remanded to jail under \$5,000.00 peace bond by Judge B. M. BINGHAM, following the collapse last Friday of the original charges against the two defendants of 'banding and confederating' based on their activities in the strike of miners here. The court room was crowded with miners who had turned out to protest the attempted frame-up of their fellow trade unionists. With the collapse of the original charges the prosecution induced four persons to swear out a peace warrant alleging threats against them by WEST and LINK. Although under cross examination by the defense, the complainants admitted that neither defendant had ever threatened them the Judge nevertheless ordered the two defendants held in \$5,000.00 peace bond."

The Daily Worker, with masthead as mentioned above, under date of Monday July 20, 1936, reflected a news item under the caption "FOSTER announces National Committee for Election Drive." Instant article reflected WILLIAM Z. FOSTER, Communist leader, and Chairman of the National Committee for the election of EARL BROWDER Chairman of the National Committee for the election of EARL BROWDER and JAMES W. FORD in the 1936 Presidential campaign announced the members of this committee. The name of DON WEST, Louisville, Kentucky, was contained in this list of Committee members.

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The Daily Worker, with masthead as previously referred to, under date of Monday October 5, 1936, contained an article which reflected that DON WEST, State Organizer, Workers Alliance of Kentucky, was a member of the National Unemployed Committee for BROWDER and FORD.

The Daily Worker, with masthead as reflected above, for Tuesday June 22, 1937, contained an article which reflected that DON WEST, Georgia born organizer of the Communist Party, Kentucky, was among those present at a reception given to MAUDE WHITE, only negro woman member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. The article also stated that instant reception was held in the home of REVA GILBERT, Organizational Secretary of the Lower Harlem Communist Party at 2 West 120th Street and that the date of the reception was June 21, 1937.

Photographic copies of pages of the Daily Worker reflecting the foregoing are on file at the Atlanta Division and are properly identified.

T-1 has advised that WEST attended the 5th National Convention of the Workers Alliance in Chicago on August 29, and 30, 1940, as a delegate from Columbus, Ohio, and stated that he had come in contact with various Communist party members while in Chicago. One of these Communist Party members so contacted by T-1 was DONALD WEST, Bethel, Ohio, minister and writer for the Daily Worker.

T-2, who was a member of the Communist Party for approximately twenty years, stated in part in a signed statement dated April 14, 1948:

*Rev. and Prof. DON WEST (Jim Weaver)

*Congregational minister; one of founders of Highlander Folk School; Communist Party trade union director; State Sec'y, Communist Party of Kentucky; County Sup't of school in Georgia, now professor at Oglethorpe University in Georgia and now state officer of Wallace for President organization --- brother-in-law of NATY ROSS and BARTALOGAN; poet, recently author of published book. ✓

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"About 47 or 48 years of age, DON WEST is a native of the hill country of North Georgia-- one of the many children in a large family. DON worked his way through college (part of the time, by radio singing, he said); obtained scholarship for study in Denmark. Became ordained minister of Congregational Church, joined Socialist party and helped organize Highlander Folk School (he and MYLES HORTON were the two founders) at Monteagle, Tenn. Joined Communist Party early in 1934, assigned to North Carolina district as trade union organizer September, 1934, using the name of JIM WEAVER. Not successful in work with unions but very effective among intellectuals at Chapel Hill. Led Burlington defense campaign; raised large funds with aid of PAUL GREEN, W. T. COUCH (Head of Univ. of N.C. Press) and many faculty members at the University.

"After about a year in North Carolina WEST went to Kentucky as party district organizer, remaining there about a year and a half or two years. I don't know whether he was removed or asked to leave. Succeeded by PAUL KELLOGG.

"WEST's reports to the national office had been very encouraging, showing considerable progress, and rapidly increasing membership which reached a registration figure of over 200. (as in most Southern states, initiations and dues were used by the district organizer as a subsidy). When KELLOGG arrived and took over the District he could locate only a total of about 25 members. Most of the branches and sections reported in WEST's reports were never located and over 175 paper members of the party disappeared from the face of the earth. As a result, WEST's stock in the party dropped to a low, little above zero. For a year or two he remained as inconspicuous as possible. Then he began writing extensively, especially for left-wing press.

"I know of his subsequent activities primarily from newspaper publicity. After being county supt. of schools in a North Georgia county he became a professor at Oglethorpe University. Now reported to be officer of Wallace campaign. A published volume of poems about two years ago received considerable publicity in literary reviews. . . ."

Dr. T. M. BARNETT, 3609 Kingsboro Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, advised in 1948 that Reverend I. J. DOMAS was pastor of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Atlanta, Georgia, and that DOMAS was a close associate of DONALD WEST. BARNETT also stated that

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AT 100-559

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DOMAS was influential in having WEST join instant church and that he, DOMAS, was attempting to infiltrate instant church with Communists, basing this belief on the fact that WEST, at a meeting of the Church, was presented by DOMAS as a model for the Church to emulate, that he, DOMAS, had read from one of WEST's books and that WEST, in 1948, had spoken at the Church, advocating the weakening of our national defense and had spoken of those who differ with them as Fascists and Capitalists.

T-4 on 7-29-48 advised the New York Office that DON WEST, who is a poet and who is connected with the Unitarian Church, is a Communist. The informant believed the subject was in Texas, for on a recent trip by the informant to Texas he was told by a Lutheran minister in Houston that WEST was "playing with" the "left wing" in the church.

T-4 further stated that he knew WEST was a Communist because WEST came to the Daily Worker Office, New York City in 1945 to check some files. The informant checked with Communist Party Headquarters before allowing WEST to look at the files and was told that WEST was a member of the Party and was "o.k."

CONTACTS MADE BY WEST

T-5 advised that WEST was in communication with one J. ~~KRENWINKLE~~, 7635 North Rogers Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The Chicago Office advised in the report of SA MAURITZ E. GAHLON dated at Chicago 7-1-47 and captioned DONALD LEE WEST that JULIA CEDER ~~KRENWINKLE~~ was, resides at 7635 North Rogers Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, and that she is a reported Communist and is active in the American Federation of Teachers and has done educational work for the Communist Party.

In 1947 T-3 advised that subject WEST was paying the box rent for Atlanta Post Office Box 1178 which was rented to the Peoples Institute of Applied Religion.

On 10-1-47, WEST was observed by former SA DONALD B. CLEGG of the Atlanta Division having lunch at the Atlantan Hotel, Luckie Street, Atlanta, Georgia, with HOMER BATES CHASE, District Organizer for the Communist Party in the State of Georgia.

On 12-4-47, former SA DONALD B. CLEGG and SA CHARLES T. HAYNES of the Atlanta Division observed subject WEST with ~~MARVIN SHAW~~,

~~SECRET~~

AT 100-559

~~SECRET~~

National Student Secretary of the Communist Party at the Terminal Station in Atlanta, Georgia. Instant meeting with SHAW occurred at approximately 9:15 P.M. At approximately 10:45 P.M. WEST and SHAW were observed by CLEGG proceeding to the home of HOMER BATES CHASE, 925 Estes Drive, S.W., Atlanta, at which place SHAW and WEST remained with CHASE for a short period and then SHAW and WEST returned to the Terminal Station.

On 1-2-48, subject WEST met an individual at the Robert Fulton Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia, instant meeting being observed by former SA DONALD B. CLEGG of the Atlanta Division. Above individual was later positively identified as M. WIONCZEK whom the New York Division advised was in May 1937 Chief Editor of the Polish Press Agency.

On 3-13-48, Special Agents PAUL F. TIERNEY and CHARLES T. HAYNES of the Atlanta Division observed subject WEST and his wife MABEL with HOMER BATES CHASE at the Pig 'N Whistle Restaurant on Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia. Above meeting occurred at approximately 3:15 P.M.

On March 26, 1948, Special Agents PAUL F. TIERNEY and CHARLES T. HAYNES of the Atlanta Division observed subject WEST with HOMER BATES CHASE and WILLIAM W. STAFFORD. Above meeting occurred at approximately 3 P.M. on the above date at the Sears Roebuck Parking Lot, Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia. WEST and STAFFORD came to the above parking lot in STAFFORD's automobile and picked up HOMER BATES CHASE. WILLIAM W. STAFFORD is the United Public Workers of America, CIO Organizer for the State of Georgia.

On 5-10-48 Special Agents PAUL F. TIERNEY and MASON FILMER and CHARLES T. HAYNES of the Atlanta Division observed subject WEST meeting with HOMER BATES CHASE at approximately 1 P.M. on the above date on Parkway Drive near the Henry Grady High School, Atlanta, Georgia.

On 5-10-48 WEST was observed by Special Agents PAUL F. TIERNEY and CHARLES T. HAYNES at the Terminal Station, Atlanta, Georgia, with an individual later identified as IRVING GOFF, Communist Party Organizer of Louisiana. SA CHARLES T. HAYNES of the Atlanta Division took 16 millimeter moving pictures of instant meeting between GOFF and WEST and developed film reflecting instant meeting is on file in the Atlanta Division. T-6 when shown a photograph of individual meeting with WEST positively identified this individual as IRVING GOFF, Communist Party Organizer for the State of Louisiana.

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AT 100-559

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Report of ROYCE B. THOMPSON, instant caption and dated at Savannah, Georgia, June 21, 1948, stated that as a result of surveillance by Special Agents LEWIS S. DABNEY and DAN A. BRANT of the Savannah Division on 5-2-48 subject WEST was at the home of ROBERT ELLIS HAWKES at the corner of Whitaker and Bolton Streets, Savannah, Georgia. Savannah reports that HAWKES is the National Maritime Union Port Agent at Savannah and that HAWKES is the most active Communist in the Savannah Division.

- PENDING -

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

T-1 is confidential informant [redacted]

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T-2 is [redacted] a former member of the Communist Party for [redacted] who is presently residing in the [redacted]

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T-3 is [redacted] Atlanta, Georgia.

T-4 is confidential informant [redacted]

T-5 is mail cover on DON WEST at Buckhead Branch United States Post Office.

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T-6 is [redacted]

T-7 is Special Agent JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR.

T-8 is [redacted] Georgia.

Douglasville,

b7D

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

M TO : Director, FBI
FROM : *X* SAC, Atlanta
SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST, was
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

~~SECRET~~

DATE: November 15, 1948

Class. & Ext. By *SP1 GSK/PSK SJA*
Reason FCIM II, 1-2.4.2.2
Date of Review *4/8/82* *4/8/82*

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Remylet August 6, 1948.

Reference is made to SAC Letter #44, Series #97, and SAC Letter #98, Series #97, concerning Top Functionaries.

During the past four months subject of instant case has been residing on a farm in Douglasville, Georgia, and is, at the present time, attempting to operate the farm in an effort to make a living.

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and AT-1338 advised that WEST has been left out of conferences and other matters concerning Communist Party activities in District #31. Informants advise that WEST has not been as active in Communist Party activities since he lost his position as Professor at Oglethorpe University, in the Summer, 1948, and has not been actively engaged in attending meetings of the Communist Party figures in the Atlanta area. ~~(S)~~

2GWR-7
removed

In view of the above, it is not felt that the subject should be continued as a Top Functionary, and it is requested that the Bureau advise whether or not WEST can be deleted as a top functionary.

JTS/ds
100-559

RECORDED - 19

100-20396-81
F B I
11 NOV 18 1948

~~APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF *class*
DATE *5/25/82*~~

~~SECRET~~

SAC, Atlanta

December 3, 1948

Director, FBI.

DONALD LEE WEST, wa.
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
Your File 100-559

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/5/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PK

Reurlet November 15, 1948.

In accordance with your request, the captioned
subject's name has been deleted from the top functionary
list at the Bureau and you are authorized to delete his
name from your top functionary list.

- Mr. Tolson.....
- Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
- Mr. Clegg.....
- Mr. Glavin.....
- Mr. Ladd.....
- Mr. Nichols.....
- Mr. Rosen.....
- Mr. Tracy.....
- Mr. Carson.....
- Mr. Coffey.....
- Mr. Lendon.....
- Mr. Holloman.....
- Mr. McGuire.....
- Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
- Mr. Nease.....
- Miss Gandy.....

RECC

100-20396 - 81

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 7
★ DEC 3 1948 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ABP's

9B's

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62 DEC 10 1948

10/14

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA

FILE NO. 100-559 ml

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA | DATE WHEN MADE 3-11-49 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/22; 11/15/48 1/7, 28/49 | REPORT MADE BY JOSEPH C. HOLMES |
| TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, Was. | | CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C | |

~~SECRET~~

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

*100-559 ml
3/24/49
MTH*

DONALD LEE WEST reportedly in contact with SAM WILLIAMS, HOMER BATES, CHASE, NAT HOSS, JAMES L. BARFOOT, and to have been very active in Peoples Progressive Party of Ga. until November, 1948. WEST reported to have submitted resignation as Co-Chairman of the Progressive Party (State of Georgia), on 11-6-48, but that committee members tabled his written resignation. Informants state he has not been very active in Communist Party matters since November, 1948. Subject presently living on farm at Rt. 4, Douglasville, Ga.

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/BK
Reason-FBI II, 1-2.4.2.2
Date of Review 4/8/92

4/8/92

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF CLASS
DATE *5/25/82*

- P -

REFERENCE:

Bureau File No. 100-10355.
Letter from Atlanta to Bureau, 11-15-48.
Report of SA PAUL F. TIERNEY, Atlanta, 10-27-48.

DETAILS :

Confidential Informants T-1, T-2, and T-3, all informants of known reliability, advised that during July, August and September, 1948, DON WEST's sole activity had been in connection with the Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia.

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>John C. Bells</i> | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES | |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT | | 100-20396-82 | RECORDED - 67 |
| COPIES DESTROYED <i>4/21/59 #16</i> | | 19 MAR 14 1949 | INDEXED - 67 |
| 6 - Bureau 1 - ONI, Charleston 1 - OSI, Warner Robins, Ga. 1 - IDA, Atlanta 2 - Atlanta | | EX-141 | EX-15 |

58 MAR 25 1949

~~SECRET~~

COPY IN FILE

SEARCHED

EX-15

~~SECRET~~

Confidential Informant T-3 advised that EUDICE TONTAK, WILLIAM WRIGHT STAFFORD, both close and constant contacts of HOMER BATES CHASE, District Organizer, Communist Party, District #31, Georgia, and HOMER BATES CHASE told him that WEST had not been cooperative during the past three months while he had been residing on his farm; and that it was their opinion that he had become a "prima donna" in reference to the Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia's work. ~~(S)~~

Confidential Informants T-1, T-3, and T-4, who is a person of known reliability, advised that DONALD LEE WEST was very active in the Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia during October and November of 1948, and that WEST had been contacted by NAT ROSS, Southern Organizer, Communist Party, his brother-in-law, on three or four occasions during the three months period prior to October, 1948. They informed that WEST has not been very active in Communist Party matters during the period October through December, 1948. ~~(S)~~

Confidential Informant T-5, an informant of known reliability, advised that during the week ending October 22, 1948, he was around the Peoples Progressive Party Headquarters frequently, and that on one occasion he saw Mr. and Mrs. JAMES L. BARFOOT leaving the Party Headquarters with DONALD WEST in WEST's red Jeep. JAMES L. BARFOOT was the Progressive Party candidate for Governor of Georgia. T-5 informed that several days later BARFOOT told him that he and his wife had spent several nights on WEST's farm near Douglasville, Georgia. He informed that SAM WILLIAMS, a Negro Professor in Political Science at Atlanta University, was closely associated with DONALD WEST, and that the two frequently worked together. ~~(S)~~

Confidential Informant T-5 further advised that he returned to his home on October 20, 1948, at about 6:00 p.m. after having been absent all day. At that time T-5's mother told him that HOMER BATES CHASE, DONALD WEST, and NAT ROSS came to his house about 10:30 that morning and stayed until about 2:30 p.m. T-5 advised on November 8, 1948, that he had attended a meeting of the Peoples Progressive Party at 85 Alexander Street, Atlanta, Georgia, on November 6, 1948, and that at this meeting DONALD LEE WEST had submitted a written resignation as Co-Chairman of the Progressive Party in the State of Georgia. He said that SAM WILLIAMS, Negro, made a motion which was carried to table the resignation submitted by WEST. ~~(S)~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

As a matter of interest in this case, it is noted from a news item appearing in the "Atlanta Journal", October 13, 1948, that DONALD WEST was not listed as an elector for the Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia, and that those who were listed as electors had signed "non Communist" affidavits as requested under recently enacted Georgia election laws. It is also noted that this news item reflected that a list of electors which had been submitted earlier by the Progressive Party contained the name of DONALD WEST.

~~Confidential~~ Confidential Informant T-6, a person of known reliability, advised that he has noticed no unusual activities around DONALD WEST's farm in recent months. He said that WEST is spending most of his time alone, and has been busy for the past week or so installing a well pump and a running water system in his house. He also informed that Mrs. SHIRLEY T. CAPPS, who also resides on this farm with her husband, is apparently spending week-ends only on this farm. It will be noted that SHIRLEY T. CAPPS is reportedly a teacher in the Atlanta, Georgia Public School System. T-6 further informed that DONALD WEST's correspondence has been unusually light in recent weeks.

Confidential Informant T-5 advised on December 30, 1948, that NAT ROSS and DONALD WEST had visited at his home on that day, and had left at about 5:00 p.m. to go to WEST's place near Douglasville, Georgia. T-5 further informed that ROSS had arrived in Atlanta on December 30, 1948, and would undoubtedly confer with HOMER BATES CHASE.

Confidential Informant T-3 advised on December 13, 1948, that HARDY SCOTT contacted JUDICE TONTAK in an effort to locate DONALD LEE WEST. He stated that TONTAK advised SCOTT that WEST was probably on his farm in Douglasville, Georgia. This informant further advised that SCOTT and TONTAK arranged to meet for lunch about 12:45 p.m., on December 13, 1948.

Confidential Informant T-7, who is a person of known reliability, advised that on December 13, 1948, he observed JUDICE TONTAK meet HARDY LEE SCOTT on Pryor Street in front of the Chamber of Commerce Building, Atlanta, Georgia. He informed that HARDY LEE SCOTT was a Communist Party organizer in Georgia in the early 1940's, and is now, according to a reliable source in the Atlanta division, believed to be in Asheville, North Carolina in some leather workers union.

~~SECRET~~

AT - 100-559

~~SECRET~~

Following is the Identification Record of subject,
under FBI #814505, as received from the FBI Fingerprint Division:

| CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS | NAME & NO. | ARRESTED OR RECEIVED | CHARGE | DISPOSITION |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------|
| PD, Phila. Pa. | DON WEST #139318 | 3-15-34 | susp. char. susp. of larc. of auto | |
| PD, Danville, Va. | JAMES ALLEN WEAVER #3239 | 7-28-34 | Inv. | rel. |

- P E N D I N G -

- 4 -

~~SECRET~~

AT - 100-559

~~SECRET~~

L E A D S

THE ATLANTA DIVISION

At Atlanta, Georgia

Will continue to follow the activities of DON WEST through informants at Douglasville, Georgia, and maintain contacts with informants to determine DONALD WEST's movements and activities.

- 5 -

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

Confidential Informant T-1 - [redacted]

Confidential Informant T-2 - [redacted]

Confidential Informant T-3 - AT-1338

Confidential Informant T-4 - AT-1340

Confidential Informant T-5 - [redacted]

Atlanta, Georgia, who has on numerous occasions voluntarily furnished reliable information concerning the Communist Party activities in Atlanta, and the State of Georgia.

Confidential Informant T-6 - [redacted]

Douglasville, Georgia.

Confidential Informant T-7 - Special Agent [redacted]

Atlanta, Georgia.

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~~SECRET~~

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

26-34.M.W.

Jan 23 1949 3632 cd

814 505

The following is the record of FBI number

J. E. Hoover
Director.

| CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS | NAME AND NUMBER | ARRESTED OR RECEIVED | CHARGE | DISPOSITION |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| PD, Phila, Pa. | Don West #139318 | 3-15-34 | susp. char. susp. of larc. of auto | <i>[Handwritten initials]</i> |
| PD, Danville, Va. | James Allen Weaver #3239 | 7-28-34 | inv. | rel. |

File in #100-20396
cc to Atlanta
2-9-49
MET

[Handwritten signature]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/15/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

SE 15³⁴

100-20396
NOT RECORDED
12 FEB 11 1949

51 FEB 18 1949 *[Handwritten initials]*

* Represents notations unsupported by fingerprints in FBI files.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
 United States Department of Justice
 Washington, D. C.

2

814 505

The following is the record of FBI number

J. E. Hoover
 Director.

| CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS | NAME AND NUMBER | ARRESTED OR RECEIVED | CHARGE | DISPOSITION |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|--------|-------------|
| | <p>The following is the description of this individual appearing on print #3239, PD, Danville, Va:</p> <p>Color, white; sex, male; residence, Kennesaw, Ga; place of birth, Cartecay, Ga; nationality, American; age, 26 in 1934; build, regular (slim); height, 5 feet 2 inches; complexion, fair; hair, dark brown; weight, 178 pounds; eyes, dark blue; scars and marks, left forearm burnt.</p> <p>Additional alias: <u>J. A. Weaver.</u></p> <p>The following is the fingerprint classification of the above subject:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AMP 19 0 29 W IOO 18 0 20 W IOI</p> <p>A photograph of the above subject is available in the files of the Bureau.</p> <p>This individual may be identical with Bureau file #100-20396.</p> | | | |

see study

* Represents notations unsupported by fingerprints in FBI files.

SAC, Atlanta

October 7, 1949

Director, FBI

DONALD LEE WEST
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
Bureau File 100-20396
Your File 100-559

The last report submitted in this case is dated
March 11, 1949.

In view of this individual's status as a key
figure, a new report is therefore due.

HT:jmf.

2 days 11-22-49

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/15/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

RECORDED - 60

- Tolson _____
- Ladd _____
- Clegg _____
- Glavin _____
- Nichols _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 6
★ OCT 7 1949 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

100-20396-83
F B I
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1705 ds
9/8/49

HGA

RECORDED - 69

SAC, Atlanta
100-25396-84
Director, FBI

December 28, 1949

DONALD LEE WEST, was.
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
Your file #100-559
Bureau file #100-20396

Re report of SA Joseph C. Holmes dated December 12, 1949,
at Atlanta, Georgia.

A review of the referenced report fails to reflect that the subject is presently active in affairs of the Communist Party. It further reflects that West and Homer Bates Chase apparently have had some type of disagreement. No contacts by West with members of the Communist Party are reported since the submission of the last report. Accordingly, it would appear that West no longer warrants the designation as key figure in the Atlanta office. It is requested that you evaluate this case and advise the Bureau as to your decision. It is believed on the contrary, however, that in view of his past history in the movement his Security Index card should be retained until such time as definite information is obtained indicating a disaffection on his part with the Communist movement.

HT:jdt

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/8/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

- Tolson _____
- Ladd _____
- Clegg _____
- Glavin _____
- Nichols _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____

MAILED - 13
DEC 28 1949
COMM - FBI

60 JAN 5 - 1950

Handwritten notes:
100-25396-84
J.C. Holmes
1/5/50

FD-72
(1-10-49)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

py 2-1, 2-3

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE AT
DATE 06-10-2010

FILE NO. 100-559 fwp

| | | | |
|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA | DATE WHEN MADE 12-12-49 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5-31-47; 7-7-47; 10-10-47; 11-21-49 | REPORT MADE BY JOSEPH C. HOLMES |
| TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was: | | CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C | |
| SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <u>MRS DONALD LEE WEST</u> is apparently leading a quiet life on his farm near Douglasville, Ga.; reportedly spends most of his time farming and writing. WEST has had no known contacts with HOMER BATES CHASE, Communist Party District Organizer for Ga., during the past year, but his writings purportedly follow the Communist line. | | | |
| ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE. | | | |
| REFERENCE: | Bureau File 100-20396. Report of SA JOSEPH C. HOLMES, 3-11-49, Atlanta. | | |
| DETAILS: | AT DOUGLASVILLE, GEORGIA: | | |
| Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised that he sees DONALD WEST frequently on the latter's farm, located about ten miles south of Douglasville, Georgia, in Douglas County, and that WEST appears to be leading an industrious but quiet life. He stated that he has never been successful in engaging WEST in any type of political discussion, but has observed that WEST is usually busy in an effort to improve the buildings on his farm and getting the place cultivated. He said that WEST apparently spends quite a bit of time in writing. He also informed that WEST'S wife and daughters are living in Fernandina, Florida, where he understands Mrs. WEST has a teaching position. | | | |
| Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSK Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2.2 Date of Review 4/8/92 | | | |
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES | | |
| COPIES DESTROYED 4/28/59 | 100-20396-84 RECORDED - 77 | | |
| (6) Bureau COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2 Miami 2 Mobile 1 ONI, Charleston 1 OSI, Warner Robins, Ga. 1 IDA, Atlanta 2 Atlanta | 3 DEC 14 1949 | | INDEXED - 77 EX-87 |

~~SECRET~~

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G. I. R. - 2

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP (S) OF DATE

file
2
2
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16

jos

Rel. Atlanta
12-28-49
HT/PSK

PROPERTY OF FBI - This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned.

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Mr. J. SPENCE DAVIDSON, Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia, who operates a country store in the community where DON WEST lives, advised that WEST appears to be living a quiet life on his farm and from all reports spends quite a bit of his time in writing.

Mr. DAVIDSON informed that DON WEST, after moving to his present home, attended the Mount Zion Baptist Church, which is in that community, on a number of occasions, and on one occasion led prayer and took part in the meeting. However, after the local members of the church learned that DON WEST is supposed to be a Communist the members cooled off toward WEST and WEST stopped attending church.

Mr. DAVIDSON further informed that CHARLIE HALL, Sr., a retired Federal Penitentiary guard and a neighbor of DON WEST, is WEST'S closest friend in the community and has associated with him quite a bit. He also informed that [redacted], lives with his father and is employed as a mail carrier in the City of Atlanta, Georgia, and commutes to work. He informed that CHARLIE HALL, Sr. is presently in very poor health and is confined to an Atlanta hospital.

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Mr. JEROME H. (CURLEY) WILSON, Douglasville, Georgia, advised that he has relatives living in the community where DON WEST resides and has spent quite a bit of time in the community hunting and fishing. He informed that as far as he knows DON WEST has never made any effort to preach Communism to any of his neighbors. He stated that he has heard that DON WEST is planning to leave his farm and go to work for a New York City publishing company.

It has been ascertained that DON WEST frequently received a number of copies of "The Southern Farmer", a magazine published at Montgomery, Alabama.

[T-1] informed that he has noted several articles which were written by DON WEST published in "The Southern Farmer".

In connection with WEST'S reported contributions to "The Southern Farmer" magazine, a letter appeared in the "letters to the editor section" of the Atlanta Constitution on September 19, 1949; this letter is signed "K. S., Atlanta", and is quoted as follows:

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"What Line?

"I have just read in this month's issue of Southern Farmer an article by D. L. WEST praising a certain Georgia minister for being what Mr. WEST calls a "practical Christian". It seems, according to this article, he earns this praise for attacking our foreign policy toward Russia; believing peace can be ours if we want it (meaning we, and not Russia, are to blame for the threat of war in the world); for "practicing Christian democracy" by fearlessly taking Negroes into his church and in his home; for attacking the KKK, Columbians and other "Fascist" organizations (the Communist Party not being mentioned). Mr. WEST goes on to say this preacher has had the "honor" of being denounced as a Communist, thus indicating this was a sign of his being right.

"I ask you, is this pure Communist-line propaganda? You answer it.

"To be sure one should have the right to criticize his country. But for a minister of the Gospel to turn aside from the faith and join hands with the Communists, who are to the core haters of God and all that is good, only proves that we are in the time spoken of it II Thes. 2:3, the "falling away" among the believers".

~~(S)~~ Confidential Informant T-3, who in the past has furnished reliable information concerning Communist Party activities in Georgia, advised that in July, 1949 JAMES LAMAR BARFOOT, who was very active in the Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia, and was formerly a known close associate of DONALD LEE WEST, advised him that "DON WEST is provoking CHASE and the entire group of the Peoples Progressive Party".

CHASE referred to above is HOMER BATES CHASE, Communist Party District Organizer for Georgia.

Confidential Informant T-4, who in the past has voluntarily furnished reliable information concerning Communist Party activities in Georgia, advised that JAMES LAMAR BARFOOT visited his home in the ~~(S)~~

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5/1/49

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early part of May, 1949, and told ~~him~~ ~~that~~ ~~NAM~~ ~~ROSS~~, Southern Organizer for the Communist Party, had, on his last visit to Atlanta, tried to get DON WEST and HOMER BATES CHASE together. T-4 also quoted BARFOOT as stating that he, BARFOOT, and DON WEST were trying to get rid of the Communist influence in the Progressive Party. ~~(S)~~

~~(S)~~ Confidential Informants T-4, T-5, T-6, and T-7, of known reliability, advised that DONALD LEE WEST has not been active in Communist Party activities during the three month period ending September 30, 1949. ~~(S)~~

~~(S)~~ T-4, T-5, and T-7 advised that DON WEST has not been active in Georgia affairs of the Communist Party for the three month period ending June 30, 1949. ~~(S)~~

Confidential Informants T-7 and T-8, of known reliability, advised that to their knowledge DON WEST was not in contact with HOMER BATES CHASE or EUDICE ~~W~~ ~~ONTAK~~, a close associate of CHASE, for the three month period ending March 31, 1949. ~~(S)~~

~~(S)~~ EVANS ~~W~~ ~~ILDER~~, formerly of Cartersville, Georgia, and who now resides in Atlanta, was, according to his own admission, recruited into the Communist Party by HOMER BATES CHASE, advised in the spring of 1949 that DONALD LEE WEST was not actively connected with the Communist Party in Georgia.

~~(S)~~ T-3 advised that an informant had told him DONALD WEST had stated that he, WEST, had been dropped from the Communist Party because he was "too rugged an individualist".

- P E N D I N G -

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L E A D S

SECRET

THE MIAMI DIVISION

At Fernandina, Florida, will attempt to determine if subject's wife is teaching school in Fernandina.

THE MOBILE DIVISION

At Montgomery, Alabama, will review the 1949 issues of the Southern Farmer magazine, particularly the September, 1949, issue, and ascertain what articles therein have been written by DONALD LEE WEST. Will brief the contents of any articles written by WEST.

THE ATLANTA DIVISION

At Atlanta, Georgia, will continue to follow WEST'S Communist activities, if any, through Atlanta informants.

Will interview [redacted], who is an Atlanta, Georgia, mail carrier, concerning activities of WEST in the Douglas County community where both [redacted] and WEST reside. [redacted] may be contacted through his post office sub-station, telephone Dearborn 4787. It is desired that he be interviewed [redacted]

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[redacted] of DONALD WEST.

At Douglasville, Georgia, will, through informants, continue to follow DONALD LEE WEST'S activities.

~~SECRET~~

AT., 100-559

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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Mr. J. SPENCE DAVIDSON, Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia, advised that it was rumored in Douglasville that CHARLIE HALL, Sr., a neighbor of subject WEST, is "one of DONALD WEST'S converts".

Mr. DAVIDSON further informed that he has heard rumors in the community that DONALD WEST is attempting to rent his farm and is desirous of moving to New York City.

In connection with the lead set out for the Miami Division at Fernandina, Florida, subject's wife's name is MABEL ADAMS WEST: originally from Middlesboro, Kentucky, and has two children [redacted] age ten.

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~~SECRET~~

AT., 100-559

~~SECRET~~
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

T-1: [REDACTED]
Douglasville, Georgia, who has requested his identity
be protected.

T-3: [REDACTED]
Atlanta, Georgia, who has requested his identity be
protected.

T-4: [REDACTED] former Communist Party member,
who has requested his identity be protected..

T-5: AT-1342.

T-6: [REDACTED]

T-7: AT-1338.

T-8: AT-1340.

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b7D

~~SECRET~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

FILE NO. 100-3381

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|--|
| REPORT MADE AT MIAMI, FLORIDA | DATE WHEN MADE 1-31-50 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1-20, 23-50 | REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px;"></div> |
| TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was, | | CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C | |

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/15/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK**

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE

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Confidential Informant T-1 advised that a Mrs. MABEL CONSTANCE WEST is presently engaged in teaching school at Fernandina, Florida.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Bureau file 100-20396.
Report of Special Agent JOSEPH C. HOLMES, dated December 12, 1949, at Atlanta, Georgia.

DETAILS:

AT FERNANDINA, FLORIDA

H. GOLDSTEIN, Postmaster, advised that he did not know of a Mrs. WEST residing in Fernandina, Florida with two daughters.

employee of the Florida Public Utilities Company, checked her records for a Mrs. MABEL ADAMS WEST with negative results.

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On January 23, 1950, Confidential Informant T-1 advised that a Mrs. MABEL CONSTANCE WEST was presently teaching at the Fernandina High School. A review of Mrs. WEST's file reflects that she began teaching in the second grade on August 15, 1949, and that her contract extends to June 14, 1950. She has Florida Post Graduate Certificate PG-60357. The following schools were listed where Mrs. WEST has received education:

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>C. A. Carson</i> | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES | |
| COPY IN FILE 100-20396-85 | | RECORDED - 53 | |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT | | INDEXED - 53 | |
| 5-Bureau 2-Atlanta (100-559) 2-Miami COPIES DESTROYED 4/22/59 #16 | | FEB 2 1950 | |
| | | EX - 66 | |

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60 FEB 9 - 1950

| <u>Institution</u> | <u>Year</u> |
|---|-------------|
| Lincoln Memorial Academy | 1927 |
| Lincoln Memorial University | 1927-1930 |
| Y.M.C.A. Graduate School | 1928 |
| Berea College - Summer Session | 1929 |
| University of Kentucky - Summer Session | 1931 |
| Brenan College - Summer Session | 1942 |
| Oglethorpe University - Summer Session | 1944 |
| University of Georgia (Master's Degree) | 1947 |

The following physical description of Mrs. WEST was noted in her file:

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Date of Birth | January 1, 1911 |
| Place of Birth | Corbin, Kentucky |
| Sex | Female |
| Race | White |
| Height | 5' 4" |
| Weight | 128 pounds |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Marital status | Married (Husband's name not noted) |
| Residence | North Beach, Fernandina, Florida |

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Confidential Informant further advised that he did not know the name of Mrs. WEST's husband but believed that he resided in Georgia. However, Mrs. WEST has two daughters residing with her [redacted] Mrs. WEST and her two daughters live at the Decker Apartments located on Fletcher Avenue on the North Beach. This location is approximately a half-mile north of Atlantic Avenue on Fletcher Avenue.

In applying for her present position, Mrs. WEST furnished the following two persons as references:

[redacted] Peabody Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.
[redacted] Ben Hill, Ga.

It was further noted that Mrs. WEST furnished the following places where she has taught school:

| <u>Institution</u> | <u>Year</u> |
|---|-------------|
| Hindman Settlement School (Location not noted) | 1930-1931 |
| Lula School (Location not noted) | 1942-1945 |
| Catoosa, Georgia (Supervisor) | 1945-1946 |
| Brookhaven, Georgia | 1946-1948 |

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Confidential Informant T-1 further advised that Mrs. WEST has indicated to him that she would like to see her husband obtain a teaching position at Fernandina, Florida. However, it is not the practice of the Fernandina School system to employ husband and wife as teachers so the possibility of her husband obtaining a teaching position is remote. At time of mentioning this possibility to T-1, Mrs. WEST advised that her husband was obtaining a Master's Degree somewhere in Georgia.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

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INFORMANT PAGE

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T-1 is

[redacted] Fernandina, Florida.